

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:207

ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003

WATER LEVEL IN DELHI

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the water level in Delhi has registered a sharp decline this year;
- (b) is so, the details thereof alongwith reasons thereof;
- (c) whether the Central Ground Water Board has conducted any study in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (e) the measures suggested by the Board to maintain the ground water level in the Capital;
- (f) whether the rules framed by the Board to maintain ground water level are frequently violated in the Capital; and
- (g) if so, the action taken by the Government against the persons/agencies/companies who violated the orders?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (d) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under the Ministry of Water Resources monitors ground water levels throughout the country on regular basis. The monitoring data of May, 20003 compared to May, 2002 indicate fall in ground water in around 49% of monitoring wells in the range of 0 to 2 meters in NCT of Delhi whereas some wells show fall of more than 4 meters also. Decline in ground water level has been observed in most parts of the South and South-West districts and some parts of New Delhi and Central districts. Decline in ground water level is attributed to over-exploitation of ground water and deficient rainfall. The CGWB prepares maps and reports about ground water levels, which are distributed to various user agencies.

(e) Measures suggested by the Board to maintain the ground water level in NCT of Delhi are as follows:-

(1) The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has notified South and South-West districts of NCT of Delhi, prohibiting further digging of wells and abstraction of ground water resource for sale and supply by private agencies without prior approval of CGWA.

(2) Adoption of roof top rain water harvesting system has been made mandatory for group housing societies, institutions, schools, hotels, industrial establishments and farmhouses located in 'notified areas'

(3) The CGWB has implemented artificial recharge projects at 19 sites under its Central Sector Scheme on " Study of Recharge to Ground Water" in NCT of Delhi. The CGWB has also provided technical guidance to various Government agencies like DDA, NDMC CPWD, PWD, Delhi Cantt., MES in construction of water harvesting structures. Further, the Board has provided designs for rain water harvesting to a number of group housing societies, industries, educational institutions, hotels and individuals. The CGWA is organizing mass awareness and training programmes for promotion of rain water harvesting.

(f) & (g) Few cases of illegal drilling of tubewells in notified areas of NCT of Delhi have been reported which have been referred to the concerned Deputy Commissioner of NCT of Delhi, who have taken action like sealing of illegal tubewells.